

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 02008 011554Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 ACDA-12  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /075 W  
-----020902 011558Z /44

O R 011525Z DEC 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9796  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2008

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, XF, IS, US  
SUBJECT: WEST BANK SUPPORT FOR SADAT

REF: JERUSALEM 2007

SUMMARY EVENTS OF LAST 12 DAYS HAVE RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL  
POPULAR WEST BANK SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S INITIATIVES. ALTHOUGH  
SUPPORT TENDS TO BE STRONGER AMONG ARAB CHRISTIANS, INITIAL  
ANXIETIES OF MUSLIMS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN QUIETED BY SADAT'S  
TOUGH KNESSET SPEECH. THIS SITUATION POSES PROBLEM FOR  
NATIONALISTIC, PRO-PLO MAYORS. END SUMMARY

1. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, CERTAIN WEST BANK NOTABLES AND  
MODERATES SUCH AS HIKMAT AL-MASRI AND ELIAS FREIJ OPENLY  
SUPPORT SADAT. BASED ON OUR SOUNDINGS THUS FAR, WE BELIEVE  
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THIS SENTIMENT IS SHARED BY MAJORITY OF WEST BANKERS.  
PRESENT SITUATION POSES PROBLEM FOR NATIONALISTIC MAYORS  
SINCE THEIR CONSTITUENTS ARE NOW OUT IN FRONT. WHILE  
EXPRESSING MILD RESERVATIONS OVER SADAT'S INITIATIVES AND  
OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA OF WEST BANK ATTENDANCE AT CAIRO,  
HEBRON'S QAWASIMI NEVERTHELESS GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WISHES  
WEST BANKERS SOMEHOW COULD HAVE A ROLE.

2. RAMALLAH'S FIERY KARIM KHALLAF ADMITS PUBLIC SUPPORT OF SADAT BUT PROPHEZIES PENDULUM WILL RAPIDLY SWING IN PLO'S FAVOR WHEN IT CLEAR (ACCORDING TO HIM) BEGIN UNPREPARED COMPROMISE ON WEST BANK. KHALLAF APPARENTLY FAILED HAVE ANTI-US LANGUAGE INSERTED IN MAYORS' STATEMENT ON SADAT VIST TO BE ISSUED SHORTLY (SEE SEPTTEL).

3. WE ARE TOLD THAT DURING NOVEMBER 26 MEETING AT BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY DURING WHICH MAYORS AND OTHERS DISCUSSED WHAT POSITION TO TAKE ON SADAT'S INITIATIVES, EVEN NORMALLY ARDENTLY PRO-PLO STUDENT BODY SPLIT WITH SOME OF THE ACTIVITISTS SAYING THAT SADAT SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY REPORT (CAIRO 19856) THAT MANY SYRIANS, UNLIKE GOVERNMENT, HAVE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD SADAT'S INITIATIVES. WE WONDER IF CARIO REPORT ACCURATE, AND IF SO, WHETHER THIS MIGHT NOT ALSO BE TRUE IN JORDAN AND LEBANON, AS SEEMS TO BE THE CASE IN THE WEST BANK.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, MPOL, OVIP, XF, IS, US, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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